

Appln. No. 10/643,168
Amndt. G dated Oct. 7, 2009
Reply to Office Action of Aug. 3, 2009

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawing includes changes to **FIG. 1**. This sheet, which includes **FIG. 1**, replaces the original sheet including **FIG. 1**. In **FIG. 1**, reference numerals **12a** and **14a** have been added to indicate protrusions on the shaft and the ends of the animal chew.

Replacement Sheets 2 and 3 are formal drawings for **FIGS. 2** and **3** respectively.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet 1-3

Remarks

The Official Action mailed August 3, 2009 has been carefully considered. Allowance of the subject application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 11 and 17 are pending in the application.

The drawings were objected to for not including a reference number for the protrusions on the end pieces. As noted in the Amendments to the Drawings portion of this paper, in **FIG. 1**, reference numerals **12A** and **14A** have been added, as requested, to indicate protrusions on the shaft and the ends of the animal chew. No new matter has been entered.

In addition, as indicated in the Amendments to the Specification portion of this paper, the specification has been amended at page 10 lines 13-22 to recite “[a]ccording to one aspect, the shank **12** and/or the end pieces **14, 16** may be provided with surface features that may enhance oral stimulation and provide hygiene benefit when chewed. These features may include nodules or other varieties of protrusions **12a, 14a**.¹” Accordingly, no new matter has been entered.

It is believed that this overcomes the rejection under 35 USC 112 and overcomes the outstanding rejection to the drawings.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the Applicant may advance a claim absent the protrusion. This has been done in claim 1 and a new dependent claim 18 has been advanced reciting that the body portion or end portions may include a protrusion. No new matter has been entered.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 11 and 17 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the paragraph 112 rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed August 3, 2009. As discussed above, this has been done.

Formal drawings (**FIGS. 1-3**) are being submitted as Replacement Sheets 1-3 with this amendment.

No claim fee is believed necessary with the addition of new claim 18 as the number of independent claims (1) and total number of claims (6) does not exceed the number of independent claims and total claims paid at the time of filing the application. In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account 50-2121.

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Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Thus, early allowance is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner desires personal contact for further disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at 603.668.6560.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 7, 2009